

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 11, 21 and 28 being independent. Independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 28 along with claims 3, 13, 23 and 30 have been amended. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments of the Applicants, which are preceded by related comments of the Examiner in small bold type:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 11, 14-16, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bosloy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,714,544) (hereinafter referred to as Bosloy) in view of Merritt (U.S. Patent No. 6,393,025 B1) (hereinafter referred to as Merritt).

As to claim 1, Bosloy discloses a method comprising: initiating (generating; column 11, lines 36-41) a transaction using a protocol (Bosloy discloses method and apparatus to make a network connection using any type of protocol; column 13, lines 58-63) that directs packets (Bosloy discloses one of the protocols that the invention can utilize is the Frame Relay protocol which, as is known in the art, is a packet switching, data link layer protocol) based on physical location (Bosloy discloses two devices [420 and 422] that are addressable within the network; column 11, lines 23-36) of a receiving device (422) over a network (412, 414 and 416) that directs packets based on path routing information in packets (Bosloy discloses a packet switching data link protocol [Frame Relay protocol] wherein, as is known in the art, the packet header contains addressing information unique to the destination for path routing usage), by establishing a virtual link partner relationship (column 17, lines 42-47) between a first component (420) and a second component (422) coupled by the network (412, 414 and 416) (column 11, lines 23-35 and column 15, lines 19-35).

Bosloy does not directly disclose a switching fabric for which the packets can be transmitted through to the destination.

Merritt teaches a network comprising a first component (25) and a second component (75) wherein packets (30) are transmitted through a switching fabric (100 and 200). The packet comprises a payload and a header and is processed using a protocol (column 2, lines 47-65).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill of the art, having the teachings of Bosloy and Merritt before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the network disclosed by Bosloy such that the network comprises switching fabric as taught by Merritt. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to make use of switching fabric in view of the teachings of Merritt, as doing so would give the added benefit of processing time sensitive packets (column 1, lines 30-35).

Amended independent 1 is directed to a method that includes initiating a transaction using a protocol that directs packets based on the physical location of a receiving device over a switching fabric. The switching fabric directs packets based on path routing information in the packets. Transaction initiation is established by a virtual link partner relationship between a first component and a second component coupled by the switching fabric. The transaction establishes a power management state of a given link that is shared by the first and second components. The power state of the first component transitions upon a transition of the power state of the second component.

The applied art is not understood to disclose or to suggest features of amended independent claim 1. For example, the art is not understood to disclose or to suggest a "transaction used in establishing a power management state of a given link that is shared by a first and a second component, the power state of the first component transitions upon a transition of the power state of the second component", as required by claim 1.

Bosloy is understood to describe establishing connections between telephone networks for sending actual information packets. A processor (referred to as call processor) produces a message (referred to as the network connection establishment request message) that is sent to identify a routing path through an ATM network. Upon sending the message through the ATM network, a path is established to direct a call from one telephone network to another telephone network. In this regard, Bosloy reads:

"The network connection establishment request message includes the information identifying the destination ATM node 438 and the information identifying the channel of the destination communications interface 433 connecting the destination ATM node 438 to the terminating bridging node 430. The source ATM node 434 determines the subsequent node in the ATM network 412 to which the network connection establishment request message should be passed and establishes a cross-connect within the source ATM node 434 making a connection between the channel on the source communications interface 432 identified in the proxy connection establishment request message and the next leg of the path as determined by either the source routing or hop-by-hop routing procedures discussed above..." (Col. 20, lines 7-19)

The call processor described by Bosloy is understood to establish a path through an ATM network. Once established, the path is used to send actual information (i.e., a call) from one telephone network to another telephone network. Thus, Applicants submit that Bosloy does not

disclose or suggest a transaction used in establishing a power management state of a given link that is shared by a first and a second component, in which the power state of the first component transitions upon a transition of the power state of the second component, as required by amended independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 28.

Accordingly, Bosloy fails at least to disclose or to suggest each and every limitation of amended independent claim 1.

For at least this reason, amended independent claim 1 is believed to be patentable. Amended independent claims 11, 21 and 28 include limitations that are similar to those described above with respect to claim 1. As such, independent claims 11, 21 and 28 are also believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons noted above.

Each of the dependent claims is also believed to define patentable features of the invention. Each dependent claim partakes of the novelty of its corresponding independent claim and, as such, has not been addressed specifically herein.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the entire application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' attorney can be reached at the address shown below. Telephone calls regarding this application should be directed to 617-368-2191.


Applicant : Gary A. Solomon et al.
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Respectfully submitted,

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Jeffrey J. Barclay
Reg. No. 48,950

Fish & Richardson P.C.
Telephone: (617) 542-5070
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906